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** NEXT MEETING **

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1984

ARMBRUSTER SCHOOL — GLEENDALE

MEETING AGDENDA

2:00 PM ,,,,,,,,,,, **Assembler Language SIG meeting**
This new SIG group will have its organizing meeting at this time. Erik Hansen is chairman

2:00 PM .... **Disk drive and DOS Workshop**
Here is your chance to check out the Atari and Atari compatible disk drives. See the features of the many new disk operating systems now available

3:30 PM .... **Business meeting**

4:00 PM .... **Consumer Electronics Show reports**
Slide show of the highlights of CES

The KIDS KORNER and libraries will be open at 2:30 PM. The libraries will be closed during business meeting and the CES reports.

** IN THIS ISSUE **

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PRESIDENT'S RAM
by Gary Nolan

THE FASTER I RUN -

THE BEHINDER I GET!!!!

Did you ever sit on a bus and watch a friend running after it, trying to catch up? Now you know they'll never make it and you yell for the busdriver to stop, but he just keeps on going (got to keep the schedule, you know!). And you turn and look out the window and watch them slowly lose ground, then start to slow down and finally give up the chase. And all the time you're hoping they'll make it, when you know they won't. If this where the last bus you might get the feeling that you'd never see them again. There's always a chance that someone will come along and give them a lift.

ATARI has announced a new GAME system, the 7800. The 7800 has the same resolution as the computers, 320 X 192, but can have 100 (one hundred) simultaneously moving objects. All in up to 256 colors, at once. All this for $150. What's that you ask? Is it upgradable? Well, now that you mention it, yes ATARI will bring out a keyboard sometime before Christmas for around $100. It will have 4K and will be expandable to 20K. The 7800 plays all 2600 game carts but not 5200 types. An adapter will be offered for 5200 owners to run 7800 carts. The system will come with Pole Position II with a batch of new and upgraded versions of some popular games to be released around the same time as the system. ATARI is planning to release six software products for use with the keyboard option. They include a basic cartridge (Microsoft?), AtariLab, a text adventure game, a word processor, a typing tutor cart. and a communications program/modem. The keyboard unit will work with some existing Atari peripherals, but will not run home computer software. Huh? Oh yea! The 7800 should be released around July. I say SHOULD because things have a way of changing.

Now let's get this straight, a base unit that can be expanded into a limited function computer but has no compatibility with existing software. Nothing like trying to prove that you can do what nobody else has been able to do yet. Mattel, Coleco, Bally, Atari itself (remember the Graduate?) and others failed at that tack. Even the mighty Commodore dropped its version called Max before it came to market. But as a spokesman for Atari said, "We're committed to revitalizing the video-game business, and we have to start with the hardware." Is that anything like flogging a dead horse, fellas?

Now for the behinder part. (You knew it had to come sometime)

At the close of last year there where 6.2 million "home computers" in use. Four million were sold during 1983 with more than three million sold in the last quarter alone. And sales for '84 are expected to run around 7 million units. TI with a 25/30% share of that market is the leader, but with a "dead" system it's a short lived lead. Commodore is right behind TI by a couple of points, but should easily pass 'em up How much does big "A" have? If they're lucky, maybe 9%. When people were asked what computers they intended to buy, Apple led the way with Commodore and IBM next. Atari was down near the bottom along with Coleco. And for somebody that was once "king of the hill", life could get lonely at the bottom of the heap. Of course you could try to pretend that every "game" unit sold is really a computer because it has a microprocessor in it. Sorry Jim, but they really DON'T count 'em like that.

And speaking of TI. If you're interested in the why's and wherefore's of the demise of the TI99/4a read the June 4th and 11th issues of Infoworld. More specifically a two part article titled "Death of a computer". Great reading.

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

Really gives you an inside look at the thinking process of TI. TI like (but not as bad as) Atari had the attitude that "if it's not invented here, it's no good".

What does all this mean? That the longer Atari waits the farther behind they get. An upgradable "game" is not the answer, unless all they want is to have the biggest share of a dying market. A lot of good that'll do. But we'll have a better idea of what's happening after the CES in June. So be at the

June meeting to see and hear all about it. Maybe they'll announce something that will give them (and us) a lift.

SUCH A DEAL

Have you noticed the ads for the Amdek 3" disk drives lately? They come in two flavors, the AMDC-I is a single drive unit and the AMDC-II is a double drive. Both feature a parallel printer port and the ability to control up to four drives (3" or 5"), each programmable for single or double density. These drives have a capacity of 180K per side (flipping IS allowed), that's formatted storage, so the total is 360K per disk. Each unit comes with the following:

* DOS/XL Ver.2 from OSS
* A double density patch for Atari DOS 2 which extends that DOS's storage capacity
* A selection of disk utilities and programming aids
* Connecting cable
* Complete documentation

Software from LJK, Penguin Software, OSS, Broderbund and Synapse are now available on the 3" format.

List prices are $599 for the single and $850 for the double units. What's the deal you may ask? Well step right up gather 'round and listen close. Because you're such nice people and belong to MILATARI (or another user group) you can get a special limited time package offer. Until July 15th you can get a

drive, DOS/XL, LJK's Data Prefect (DD) and Choplifter from Broderbund for $450 for a single drive model and $650 for the two drive system. Such a deal!

To place an order or to find out more about the offer, contact:

Amdek Corp.
ATTN: Customer Service
2201 Lively Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(312) 595-6890

Be sure to tell them that you are a member of the Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group, so you get the special price.

If you're one of those people that want to see before you buy, I am trying to get a demo unit up here in time for the Disk workshop being held at the June meeting.

This to me seems like one of the truely good deals, if your in the market for a new drive. But there are some not so apparent drawbacks. If this is to be your only drive you should know that right now almost all software on disk for the home market is on 5 1/4" disks. So some method of transfering programs is needed. These drives will work along with any Atari compatible drives so that is not a problem. Also know that there are other sub 5" drive formats around, the Sony 3 1/2" and the Dysan 3 1/4" are the others. There is no "standard" for these yet but most people are betting on the Sony. The disks are NOT inter-changable. If these are to be second drives you have little to worry about.

From The Microperipheral Corp. comes a special offer on two products. The first one is called AutoPrint and is a modem/printer interface. It works with the 400, 600 or either 800 and features autodial, autoprint and on & off/line parallel printer capabilities. For a limited (until June 30th) the club can get them for $144+ s/h. For every ten we buy we'll get one free. And with every modem order you can buy something called the Black Jack for $25. What this little

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

beauty is is a portable phone jack. What you do is to unscrew the mouthpiece of the phone and screw this in and, presto a standard phone jack. See me at the meeting if you're interested and want to help us get a freebie. If you can't wait and have to have it as soon as possible send $144 plus $3 for ground UPS ($5 for Air) per modem to:

Microperipheral Corporation
2565 152nd Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052

Or give them a call at (206) 881-7544. They take MC, Visa or will ship COD.

MAGAZINE UPDATE

ROM magazine sent another copy of their publication for us to look over. If you remember my original comments on it, I said it had promise. Well this issue looks a lot better than the first one. Format is pretty standard in that it has the product reviews and program listings you've come to expect in computer mags. Can't vouch for the programs as I don't have the time to type them in and run 'em. It will go into the library after everyone has had a chance to look it over.

Subscription rates are:
    1 year ---- $12
    2 years --- $23
    1 year Mag. & Cassette -- $25
    1 year Mag. & Disk ------ $40

Address is:
    ROM Magazine
    Box 252
    Maple Ridge, B.C.
    V2X 7G1 Canada

Also new this month is a magazine called Magazine Guide (to Personal Technology Publications) from SoftSide Publications. What it does is list several (I counted 37) magazines and tell you a little about them. There is a special offer for you to sample four magazines from a list of eleven for only $3. This almost belongs in the such a deal category.

OH WOW!

Seiko Instruments (a division of the watch company) has a desktop computer that is used mainly in industry, but the specs are impressive. It has 512K of memory and lets you choose from 512 colors. It uses four microprocessors to display and control a graphics screen that has a resolution of 1024 X 780. When you consider that photographic resolution starts at 1000 lines you get an idea how sharp the picture is. Now an industrial graphics system may not make your hart beat faster, but look at the June issue of Creative Computing and the review of the Memotech MTX512. On Pg. 60 the author talks about a project that Memotech is working on. This is the type of thing that is coming down the road for the home user. It may be a couple of years before the price comes down, but have faith.

ROUND AND ROUND

The Disk Drive workshop will be held this month. Anybody who would like to give a short presentation on a drive or disk access form a programming stand point should contact one of the following people:
    Ben Wong   784-5879
    Tom Jacobs   444-5390
They need Trak, Rana, Atari 1050 and any other drives you can come up with. They will also need any of the DOS's that you might have around.

Next month they'll be doing a telecommunication workshop, so get your modems and TC programs together and either give them a call or see them at the meeting to offer your services.

IT'S GETTING CLOSER

Don't look now, but a Waukesha chapter is getting closer. We've gotten one person to offer to help get it going, we have a site all picked out, have a tentative date for the first meeting and all we need is one or two more Waukesha

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

people to pitch in and we're off. Just think of it. No more long drives into Milw. and back. Who knows you might even hold meetings AT NIGHT, DURING THE WEEK, just like all the other groups. Now that's radical thinking if I've ever heard it. The date July 25th, the time 7pm. The place should sound familiar, it's the Community room, Waukesha State Bank, 100 Bank St. For more info call either myself or Dave Klein at 542-7866 after 6pm.

FLASH--FLASH--FLASH--FLASH--FLASH--FLASH

No, I'm not taking up flashing.

Atari just announced that it will introduce its reconfigured 1450XLD at COMDEX Fall, or earlier. It still has a built in drive, modem and voice capability and an expected price of UNDER $1000. Prior to to its release it will be given to software people for product development. (GOOD MOVE) It should be shipping by the end of the year. Also announced for year-end shipment is an expansion box for the 800XL and 1450XLD that has an 80 col. card and at least 64K of additional memory. Atari plans to offer MS/DOS and Apple compatibility options at a later date, no prices were given. Atari also dropped the dealer prices on the 800XL. This could be the ride back to competitiveness that Atari needs. Now if Gentleman Jim was serious about not announcing products that don't exist, we've got something to look forward to the rest of this year. If not? Want Ad City for a lot of people.

STICK IT! (Part II)

Those of you who showed up a last months meeting a little late and didn't get a chance to buy some of the Graph-Fix labels for your 800 keyboard, take heart. We've ordered some more and they should be here by meeting time. Those of you who don't know what these things are, pay attention. Graph-fix lables are 1/4" square mylar coated labels, 29 in all, that have all the graphic symbols on them. You peel them off, stick them onto the front of the keys on the old 800 and never have to waste time looking up which keys produce what characters.

HOW EMBARRASSING

Ever go to print out a letter and find your ribbon is pretty well used up, and the print is real faint. Well avoid those embarrassing moments, get yourself a ribbon re-inker. I just picked up a product called Le Ribbonizer. Cost was $45 with shipping included. It's pretty simple really, plastic shell with a small motor and two inking rollers. It takes maybe 20/25 minutes but over the long haul it'll pay for itself in ribbon money saved. You can buy blank (uninked) ribbons and red or blue ink from them if you like variety. You can order by phone using MC, Visa or COD by calling 1-800-538-8157 Ext981.

BYE BYE

Remember to be at the June meeting for our annual CES report and slide show and the disk workshop. BYE.................

MILATARI NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

This newsletter with accept camera ready advertising copy from anyone supling goods or services of interest to our membership.

Current members of MILATARI may place classified ads in the news letters at no charge.

<u>RATES</u>

Full page.......................$30.00
Half page.......................$17.50
Quarter page....................$10.00
Business Card....................,$2.00
Copy is due by the 4th Sat. of each mth

ATR8000 - CP/M SIG NOTES

The ATR8000 - CP/M Special Interest Group held its' organizational meeting on June 30th. The group met at Don Wilcox's home.

There are 25 members of MILATARI with ATR8000's, with most of them having their first exposure to the CP/M operating system. Therefore it was decided that the first order of activity will be beginer's introduction to CP/M and Z80 based computers.

The group acted to establish a public domain library of CP/M programs for the ATR8000 users. A $5.00 initiation fee to join this SIG was established to help offset to cost to acquire the programs and media to build this SIG library. Members of the SIG will be able to then purchase disk from the library at the same rates charged for the MILATARI libraries public domain volumes. Jo Wilcox will be the disk librarian.

Verne Socks agreed to act as treasurer for the SIG and will work with MILATARI treasurer Steve Tupper on the finances of this SIG.

The group voted to hold a regular monthly meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 8:00PM. The meetings will continue to be held at the home of Don Wilcox, 1419 W. Custer Street, Milwaukee. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 26th and are open to all MILATARI members.

Gary Nolan demonstrated the various software products which are bundled with the ATR8000. Explained how to configure and boot up the ATR8000 and demo'd the 40 column and 80 column version of the monitor software.

IN THE MAIL

(Some recent press release and offers received by MILATARI)

LJK upgrades DATA PERFECT

St. Louis, Mo. - LJK, Inc. has announce an upgraded version of DATA PERFECT for the ATARI. In addition to the added enhancements, a new typeset manual is being made available.

LJK is offering an upgrade promotion to all registered owners. The fee is $30 for which you will receive a new manual, a new disk and a quick reference card.

Following are some of the program's enhancements:

o Selective merge capability.
o Three lines of detail in the reports as opposed to two.
o Ability to reformat a data base without doing a merge.
o Default values are displayed before data entry.
o Data Perfect now supports double density.
o Data Perfect now supports both the BIT 3 and AF 80-Column cards.

To upgrade, return your DATA PERFECT disk and check to LJK at 7852 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, 63119.

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ATARI to re-introduce 1450XLD

Sunnyvale, CA. - Atari will introduce its reconfigured 1450XLD computer, which includes a disk drive, modem and voice chip this fall. The price is expected to be under $1000.
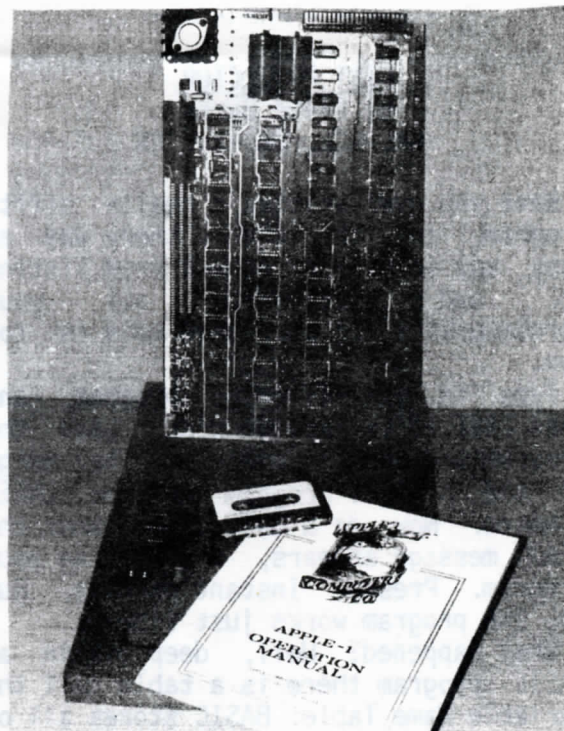
Atari is approaching third party software developers to ensure software support for the new 1450XLD.

Also set for year-end release is an expansion box for the 800XL and 1450XLD that has 80-column card and 64K of additional memory.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE APPLE 1?

(from MECC NETWORK - the Newsletter of the Minn. Educational Computer Consortium)

St. Paul, MN. - In a piece of personal computer lore now well publicized, Apple Computer, Inc. was formed in 1976 by Steven Jobs and Stephen Wozniak. After they showed a "homebrew" computer they has built to a local computer store, the store owner ordered fifty of them to sell. Flushed with success, Jobs sold his van and Wozniak sold his calculator to raise funds needed to buy parts. The computer, dubbed the Apple 1, was sold for $666.66 and featured 4K of RAM memory. The Apple 1 was not a complete system. It was a circuit board to which the buyer had to add a keyboard, cassette player, monitor, and power transformer.

Less than a year later, the Apple 1 line was replaced by the new familiar

Apple][line. Very little has been seen or heard about the Apple 1 since that time. In fact, very few people have ever seen an Apple 1! But this is to be expected since only two hundred were built and many of these were traded in on Apple][computers. But every so often an Apple 1 surfaces. Recently an ad was placed by a retired electronics store owner from Great Falls, MT., offering one for sale. He bought the computer new in 1976 from Apple Computer but eventually found it did not meet his needs. He replaced it with an Apple][.

The Apple 1 (series #82) has a new home today -- at MECC. MECC bought the computer, still in the original box, along with manuals, a cassette interface, and the BASIC language tape. The Apple 1 will soon be on display at the MECC office so people can view the oldest member of the Apple line.

MECC is located at 3490 Lexington Ave. North, St Paul, MN.

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LIST PROTECTOR
by Steve Burns
DAL-ACE, Dallas, TX

Have you ever written a really niffty program, and then wished there was an easy way to prevent others from listing it, and discovering all your "trademarks"? If so, then this is for you.

Type in the following program, and then LIST it to tape or disk. Load the program you want to protect. Then merge in the protect program with the ENTER command. Now, do a GOTO 32500. When the READY message appears, try listing your program. Presto! Instant garbage. Run it. The program works just fine.

What happened? Well, deep within a BASIC program there is a table call the Variable Name Table. BASIC stores all of the names of your variables in this table. What the protect program does is change all the variable names to carriage returns, (character 155).

For additional information about the Variable Name Table, and to learn how to make a listing of your variables, refer to the ANALOG COMPENDIUM, Volume 1.

WARNING: Use a different filename when you save the messed-up program. Otherwise, you may overwrite your only good copy of the program.

```
32500 TSTART=PEEK(130)+256*PEEK(131):CAD
DR=TSTART:REM FIND POINTER TO V.N.T.
32510 VARNAME=PEEK(CADDR):IF VARNAME<>0
THEN 32530
32520 ? "VARIABLE NAME TABLE STARTS AT:"
;TSTART:? "AND ENDS AT";CADDR:GOTO 32530
32530 CADDR=CADDR+1:GOTO 32510
32540 FOR I=TSTART TO CADDR:POKE I,155:N
EXT I:REM CHANGE VARTIABLE NAMES
```

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EASY-TOUCH-I KEYBOARD for 400's

Noblesville, IN. - B&B Associates has released a keyboard attachment for the ATARI 400.

The "ET-I" is a state-of-the-art mold-ed silicone keyboard. The keys travel approximately .060" when pushed, and provide a tactile feel. The "soft" key-tops are much easier on the fingertips than the flat membrane switches.

The "ET-I" was a good value at $19.95 each. Now is your chance to get a GREAT bargain. We are now offering the "ET-I" to ATARI club members at special club discount prices.

If the ATARI club members as a group purchase between two and five keyboards, the club price will be $15.50 each, between six and ten keyboards will be 12.75 each and eleven and up will be $12.25 each. There will be no postage or handling charges on these orders.

(note - we will put together a group order at our next meeting. If you cannot attended but would like to participate, please call our treasurer, Steve Tupper at 462-8168.)

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SEEK AND FIND

This month we will begin testing you ability to spot 6502 Assembler Mnemonics.

ADC..Add memory to caccumulator with
     carry
AND.."AND" memory with accumulator
ASL..Shift left one bit
BCC..Branch on carry clear
BCS..Branch on carry set
BEQ..Branch on zero
BIT..Test bits in memory against
     accumulator
BMI..Branch on minus
BNE..Branch on anything but zero

BPL..Branch on plus
BRK..Break
BVC..Branch on overflow clear
BVS..Branch on overflow set
CLC..Clear carry flag
CLD..Clear decimal mode
CLI..Clear interrrupt disable bit
CLV..Clear overflow flag
CMP..Compare memory and accumulator
CPX..Compare memory against X register
CPY..Compare memory against Y register

We will continue with the assemblier Mnemonics next month.

THE 20 HIDDEN WORDS ARE

ADC	BPL	ASL	BRK
BCC	BVC	BCS	BVS
BEQ	CLC	BIT	CLD
CLI	BMI	CLV	BNE
CMP	CPX	CPY	AND

```
D S U O H U M Z D W D C T L T B Z U Z E Q A L F O
A A M Y I P J H B R H M D S L V R J X L A C B H B
B D B N T R F A Q S Q K W B H S O R C H J C P C A
N I O D H E N W G L Y J D R Y D Z U I Y C I Z C S
U K V N N F B C H O B L M Q E L F X L A L W Y I N
O W G A Y C Q D C A A V G L R C H O C V L Q N J R
U J B V U L L A V N I F B S S C W S D Q E B O C L
I L F A O P Y C J J V N B F D G W E D B P S E Q L
U B I U R W X N R S E K A T T Z O G O M M G S R E
A O Y S Y V V Y F F A Z Z K C F P P M C T T C P X R
H P P O S S Y Z S I H B S J Y B X X E A K R H S I
H F N D F Q U K K Q B F B R J D L Q T V A H W W G
C B Q I Y D K U P A V P A K X Z X M R F U D M V C
S P Y I L X S U I I S I D G V A Y T Y E B H N D A
N L U Z W J K L A C R L Y L V K T C F Z O V W C F
V Q Y U A J F U G P Q J B V C L D C P U A T C X R
N E H Q E E K V U Y E V B E U I K S U Y H Z T T S
Z Q B S D T D E U M X D X Y B D D V E O X F J O O
O A Q N P G N Z K X G Z G J R R K F K O A S Y T
S W T M D E A U B Y K Z S B T L I C W O C H C L F
P E V C L P F I F G K C M L I Z T O T E Z F D K Q
G L U P V N O S D N M T Z O B M G Z O S C B K B Y
C L V W O C O Z L P P I H M Y B P B R K E Q O O
I D M O F H W F C B Q B M I O X X E L Z F S C O D
T W B E F E S V J A R Q W Z H W G D G I C E D C R
```

MILATARI OFFICERS

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Secretary........Linda Scott...466-2314
Treasurer........Steve Tupper..462-8168

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MILATARI BULLETIN BOARD........355-6031

Direct all inquiries, membership requests and newsletter submissions to:

MILATARI
P.O. Box 1191
Waukesha, WI 53187-1191

Milwaukee Area Atari Users Club

MILATARI is an independent, user education group which is not affiliated with ATARI, INC. The newsletter is the official publication of MILATARI and is intended for the education of its members as well as for the dissemination of information concerning ATARI computer products.

MILATARI membership is open to individuals and families who are interested in using and programming ATARI computers. The membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to the club libraries. The annual membership fee is $15 for individual or $20 for a family.

Other computer user groups may obtain copies of this newsletter on an exchange basis.

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